



Child's PLAY

Mix fun, character and style
to create the perfect kid's bedroom



Having a room to herself means Millie (pictured left) can have lots of soft, feminine touches to give the room a whimsical feel in which she delights.

A fabric-covered birdhouse and fabric flowers (pictured above middle) make pretty wall decorations while tiny bunting adds a cute touch, suspended across a bookcase and the mirror of an Ikea Hemnes dressing table (pictured above right).

Nicole gave the dressing table a personal touch with some glass drawer knobs she bought on eBay.

"The Panton chair adds a lovely splash of colour, as does the turquoise timber bedside table," Nicole says.

A timber tree is used to store Millie's necklaces and hair accessories while creating a pretty display.

Globetrotter wallpaper, by Clarke & Clarke, fills one wall and creates a beautiful feature, while suspended tissue-paper pompoms add a playful, festive touch.

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She could appropriately be named 'Queen of the kids'; well, kids' rooms anyway.

Interior decorator Nicole Rosenberg, of Little Liberty, has an eye for decorating spaces for children, from recreation areas to bedrooms.

"Children need to have a space they feel comfortable in," Nicole says.

"I believe children's rooms should have an uncluttered feel as it's more conducive to good sleep and makes the room a space they want to spend time in, a haven."

For this reason, Nicole is an expert at the art of concealment.

She supports the idea that children should be able to have their special box of 'treasures': the things they collect, make or buy that don't necessarily fit the style of decorating you have in mind for the room but are still precious to them.

"It's a matter of finding an appropriate way to store or display things," Nicole says.

This can range from a box that tucks under the bed or is slotted into a shelving system, or by grouping a small collection of items on a shelf within a cabinet so they are on view but not necessarily on show.

"I wouldn't recommend hanging things up along a wall or displaying them across an entire shelf – keep it small and simple."

Nicole has applied these principles to fitting out the rooms of her own three children: Ruby, 8, Millie, 6, and Archie, 3. ➤

NICOLE'S TIPS FOR DECORATING KIDS' BEDROOMS

- Don't be afraid to try something a bit bold. There's plenty of choice out there. Be brave.
- Keep the bed linen simple and build the colour or design into other items that can be readily changed.
- Declutter before you start and conceal what you can.
- If possible, keep toys in a space separate to the child's bedroom or store them in a cupboard.
- Mix and match. Buy things that appeal to you, not necessarily all from the same place or range.
- Alter elements to suit you. Change knobs, or paint something for a pop of colour.
- Use wallpaper on a single wall to make a statement.

Ruby's room

fabulous pop of colour, with feature pieces including the bedside lamp (pictured below), the bookshelf (pictured bottom), a throw rug on the end of the bed and the stag's head (pictured left) over her desk.

These fun elements, teamed with the cute woodland-creature cushions on her bed and the subtle clock-patterned wallpaper, reinforce that this is a room for a child.

Solid-coloured jersey bed linen from Abode provides the perfect canvas around which to build the room.

A bedside replica Comptonibili unit is ideal for housing all those bits and pieces that children like to have handy – a drink or comfort toy – but that you don't really want on display, as well as providing a place for the bedside lamp.

Nicole doesn't believe you need to spend a fortune on each item, rather she recommends mixing inexpensive basic items with a few statement pieces you splurge a bit more on.

A simple Ikea desk has been teamed with a replica Ghost chair and is kept neat and tidy using a magazine holder on the side of the desk. ➤

Nicole doesn't decorate any child's room in a 'babyish' style, even when they are babies – she believes it leads to a room with a very short life span. But there comes a point when a revamp to account for the age of the child is necessary.

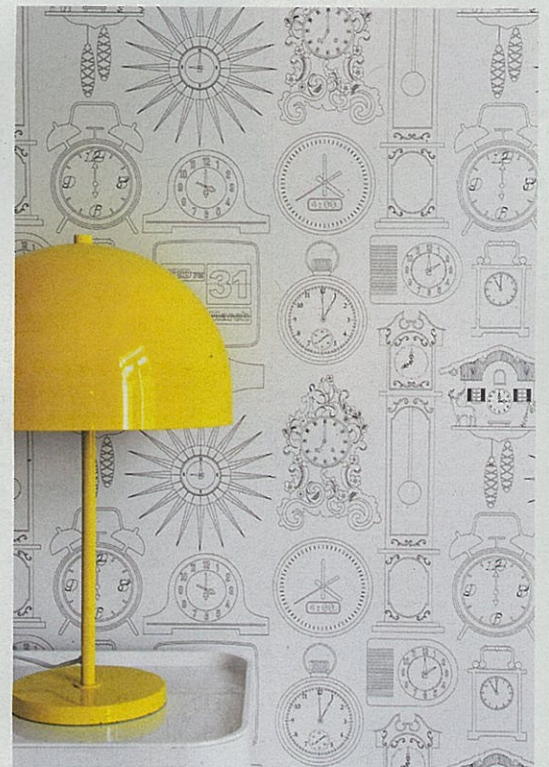
Until recently, Ruby (pictured left) shared a room with her younger sister, Millie.

Moving Ruby into a room of her own gave Nicole the opportunity to decorate in a style more suited to Ruby's personality.

"She likes things simple, with everything in its place," Nicole says.

"She's very different to Millie who prefers things that are princess-like, so being able to decorate in a slightly more 'tween' style is ideal."

Sunshine yellow has been used throughout the room to provide a



Archie's room

Archie (pictured below) will continue to grow with his room throughout his childhood.

"I wanted a traditional room with masculine, strong colours," Nicole says.

"It's evolved over time to include navy and black, which many would say don't go together, but I love it."

Nicole sources decorating items from a range of outlets, so pieces might have been unearthed locally or from the other side of the world.

The animal papier-mache heads (pictured above right) hail from Haiti, while vintage tennis racquets on the wall were found in a local op-shop.

"That's my talent, mixing items together," Nicole says.

Wooden skittles (pictured right) and colourful blocks are teamed with fabric bunting and one of Nicole's favourite pieces in the room, a quilt made by her best friend.

A medicine chest on the bookshelf (pictured below right) houses all of Archie's treasures that Nicole classes more as 'kids' clutter'.



Nicole Rosenberg

UPDATING YOUR CHILD'S ROOM

- Start with the bed linen. Girls, in particular, will reach a point when they no longer want pink and prefer a more mature colour.
- Update the artwork – try sculptural pieces like a stag's head or framed vintage posters.
- Create a style sheet or mood board with your child to get an idea of what they like and how it will look together.
- Change the accessories – convert a simple vanity into a study desk by adding storage for books and pens.

Get in touch

Check out more of Nicole's decorating at www.littleliberty.com

